United Nations E/2005/NGO/20

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2005
English
Original: French

Substantive session of 2005
New York 29 June-27 July 2005
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by Fondation internationale carrefour, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2005/100.

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In parallel with its growing international presence, in July 2000 Carrefour set up a corporate foundation in order to coordinate actions of international scope so as to identify universal causes by adopting a multinational and multicultural approach.

Following on from its country-level patronage, designed to foster the image of a socially responsible company, Carrefour decided to set up a second independent structure to intervene in such areas as humanitarian action, health, scientific and medical research, culture, education, the fight against exclusion and protection of the environment.

The President of Carrefour then made a clear choice by deciding to provide for a budget of 4.6 million euros a year, for five renewable years and also to establish a Board of Directors composed of recognized individuals who would play an active part and be good decision-makers.

He chose to entrust the keys of this Foundation to a professional from outside the company who was selected because his qualities matched the Foundation's objectives.

The Foundation's Director, Jean-Marie Fonrouge, was an anaesthetist, a specialist in emergency and disaster medicine and a doctor in public international law. He taught disaster medicine at several faculties in Europe, Latin America and Africa. For five years, he dedicated himself to setting up the Fondation internationale carrefour and preparing it to become one of the main stakeholders in international development. Accordingly, in July 2001, the Foundation established "official relations" with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In 2003 it attained consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to produce a manual entitled "Good practices for the meat industry", and from 2001 to October 2004 it formed a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and its World Alliance of Cities against Poverty initiative.

As an emergency doctor, he established a specific method of intervention that allowed for an "immediate" reaction and a response tailored to needs by establishing effective cooperation between the Foundation, on the one hand, and national Governments and Ministries of Foreign Affairs, on the other.

For there is no action recognized by the emergency community without the ability to reproduce a high-quality response, specific resources, good relations and rapid delivery.

Directing a foundation is a delicate exercise that requires a range of different abilities: making choices, listening, adopting a project to meet requirements, saying yes and knowing when to say no even at the risk of upsetting people.